



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DRUG USER IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

TUCSON – Gregory Ybarra Celaya, 23, of Gila Bend, Ariz., was sentenced here on July 23 to serve eight months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release by U.S. District Judge Frank R. Zapata. Celaya had pleaded guilty on May 14 to the charge of Possession of a Firearm by a Drug User.

As part of his guilty plea, Celaya admitted the following facts: On November 29, 2006, Celaya was walking on a road in the San Lucy District of the Tohono O'odham Nation in the District of Arizona when he was approached by officers of the Tohono O'odham Police Department. During the interaction with the officers, the exterior of Celaya's clothing was patted-down for officer safety. Celaya was found to be in possession of a knife. When the officer removed the knife from Celaya's jacket pocket, Celaya told the officer that there was a pipe in the pocket as well, which Celaya said was "for G," which refers to methamphetamine. Celaya did not have any useable quantities of methamphetamine in his possession at that moment because he said he had smoked it all already. Celaya admitted having been using methamphetamine for more than a year before this incident. Celaya also told the officer that he had a gun in his pocket. The gun was located in Celaya's pants pocket and was identified as a Smith and Wesson, model 13-3, .357 caliber revolver, which was manufactured outside of the State of Arizona.

Celaya's prosecution is part of the District of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), an illegal firearms enforcement program. The effectiveness of Project Safe Neighborhoods in Arizona is based on the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive that is led by the U.S. Attorney. Through ongoing partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, the U.S. Attorney is implementing a series of strategies that are contoured to fit the specific gun crime problems throughout Arizona.

The investigation in this case was jointly conducted by the Tohono O'odham Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Jennifer J. Maldonado, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

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